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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

- B²
16. (currently amended) A method of stabilizing an emulsion polymer composition comprising adding to an emulsion polymerization composition an emulsion-stabilizing quantity of a branched polymeric base-catalyzed reaction product consisting essentially of: A) at least one epihalohydrin or trihaloalkane and B) at least one alkoxyated alcohol, wherein the mole ratio of component A) to component B) is from about 0.60:1 to about 2:1.
17. (withdrawn)
18. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said emulsion-stabilizing quantity is added subsequent to carrying out emulsion polymerization with the emulsion polymer composition.
19. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said mole ratio is from about 0.8:1 to about 2:1.
20. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said emulsion-stabilizing quantity is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5.0% by weight, based on solids.
21. (withdrawn)
22. (withdrawn)
23. (withdrawn)
24. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the emulsion polymer composition is a vinyl acrylic emulsion polymer composition.
25. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the emulsion polymer composition also contains at least one other emulsifier.

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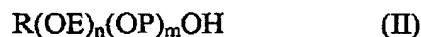
26. (currently amended) A method of stabilizing an emulsion polymer composition comprising adding to an emulsion polymerization composition an emulsion-stabilizing quantity of a branched polymeric base-catalyzed reaction product consisting essentially of:

- A) at least one compound of formula I



wherein each X group is a halogen atom or one X group is a halogen atom and two X groups represent an epoxy oxygen atom, which is attached to two adjacent carbon atoms in the R^1 group to form an epoxy group, and R^1 is an alkanetriyl group containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms; and

- B) at least one compound of the formula II



wherein R is a saturated or unsaturated organic group having from 3 to 22 carbon atoms, n is a number of from 1 to 50, m is a number of from 0 to 10, EO represents an ethyleneoxy group, and OP represents a propyleneoxy group.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein in said reaction product, R in component B) is an alkyl group.
28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein R is an alkyl group containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms.
29. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein the alkyl group contains from 8 to 10 carbon atoms.

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30. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein in said reaction product, n in component

B) is a number of from 3 to about 50 and m is zero.

B2 31. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein the degree of polymerization of said
reaction product is from about 2.0 to about 6.0.

32. (withdrawn)

33. (withdrawn)
